and the choice apple, or the sloe and the plum. The tree, although one of great poetic fame, is nevertheless far from beautiful, its dusky hue giving it the appearance of being covered with dust. It will grow on the driest and most flinty soil; and, if not liable to be pruned, live to an astonishing age, in almost any country, although almost confined to those of warm, or at least temperate climate. It is frequently propagated by truncheons, that is, short pieces of the trunk, or of substantial branches, which, being planted, soon take root, and send forth goodly stems; it is also multiplied by grafting. In scripture times it was grown in gardens set apart for it.

136. The olive was formerly in Palestine contemplated as an emblem of prosperity and excellence; its tender boughs have by numerous tribes been viewed as sacred; by the ancient Greeks they were highly estimated, being on great occasions selected for ornament, brought forward in great profusion at the nuptial feast, adorning the apartments of the bridegroom on the marriage-day, and forming wreaths to crown the successful competitors at the Olympic games; the modern Greeks too, in emulation of the old times, have instituted similar pastimes, at which King Otho confers the chaplet of honour with his own hands. It is a symbol of peace and reconciliation, and was, amongst others, sacred to Apollo.

137. The olive was one of the principal fruits cultivated by the Jews, who used it for their daily food, and highly valued it for its nutritive qualities; in Canaan it constituted a very considerable proportion of the wealth. It is chiefly valuable on account of the plentiful supply of oil which is obtained from its fruit when ripe, and which, in all the oleaginous class of plants, excepting the present, is obtained from the seed, but in this is yielded by the fleshy part of the fruit. It is very useful in a variety of ways in a hot country; in the Levant and in Greece it is much esteemed as an ingredient in cookery, entering into almost every dish. In the small island of Corfu, in the Gulf of Venice, the produce in 1835 amounted to nearly 100,000 barrels, in value about 2,000,000 of dollars. Of old it was obtained by treading the berries under foot, also by pounding them in mortars; now, however, mills are employed for the purpose, some of which are erected in the vicinity of Athens. Besides its use by the Jew as an article of food, it was highly prized in the way of ornament, to "make his face to shine." Under the ceremonial law, it was an ingredient in a costly perfume, wherewith the sacred orders of the priesthood were anointed. A failure in the olive crop was regarded amongst the Hebrews as a severe calamity, its success materially affecting their temporal condition. It possesses a soothing influence in mitigating pain, and is said to cure the poisonous bite of the viper. Competent judges have asserted that it may be used with benefit to the constitution, especially with vegetables, in preference to artificial sauces, which, while palatable, are pernicious. The use of the fruit with us, during or after drinking much wine, is well known; there are three kinds used—the French, Spanish, and Italian, all differing in appearance and flavour, and which are chosen according to taste. To obtain the juice in greatest perfection, the fruit should be carefully gathered, and never shaken off, as the bruises occasioned by the latter mode injure the oil; the oil should also be expressed immediately the fruit is gathered. An admixture of beech-oil, which is procured on purpose, is found to preserve it from becoming rancid, to which in its unmixed state it is liable when sent on long voyages. For polishing metals olive-oil is the best, there being water in all other oils.

138. Of the application of the wood in modern times, there appear few records; but in sacred writ there is ample testimony to its usefulness, in doors, lintels, side-posts, and carvings. Its texture, however, is solid, its colour is yellowish, and there appears reason to suppose, being a tree of a hardy nature, and which lives to a great age, that it is adapted to superior uses.

(To be continued.)

The Gresham Committee propose removing the mosaic pavement at the Royal Exchange, and replacing it with Seyssel Asphalte.

ANCIENT ROME AND MODERN LONDON CONTRASTED.

BY H. G. MONTAGUE, ESQ.

Time, while it brings with it a continuous increase of wisdom, derived from the experience of observation and experiment, tends to give us a more just and rational conception of events and natural phenomena than could possibly be entertained by men of learning in the darker ages. The history of nations existing in the earlier period of the world, and of events seen through the dense cloud of ignorance and superstition, is rather an appeal to our wondering credulity than to our reasoning powers; and the few facts handed down to us, if there be any facts, are so veiled in metaphor and fable, so surrounded with the tinsel drapery of egotists, courtly parasites, poets, and philosophers, that reasonable doubts are thrown upon the whole, and in these enlightened days we are driven to the necessity of either rejecting many historical accounts, or of involving ourselves in an endless controversy of dates and names and incidents contradictory to each other, contradicted by contemporary writers, or so disfigured by successive interpolations as, like the existing state barge of Venice, to have lost all claims of early origin. The recorded events of our own times, when they administer to or wound the vanity of a nation, and become subservient to the uses and abuses of superstitions, are not to be depended on, and the passages of victory or defeat, of successful intrigue or disappointed rebellion, are so variously stated at the time these events happen as occurrences were 4,000 years ago.

We are a strange contradictory people; with the pride naturally resulting from our wealth, numbers, and intelligence, we combine thorough distaste for every thing national connected with arts and literature. Our scholars are infatuated with pagan literature, and in their admiration for poets, orators, and philosophers of times past, overlook the fact, that most of the works handed down to us are of a nature wholly unfit for the perusal of a Christian people, and would not be tolerated in an English dress: in their idolatry of the ancients, of sculpture, of architecture, and other branches of art, they are led to magnify the objects contemplated, forgetting that what has been done, may again be done; that excellence of design or execution ought to awaken emulation; and that the immense sums lavishly bestowed in collecting antiquated rubbish might be better and much more appropriately bestowed in *encouraging native talent*, and in ornamenting a capital most assuredly the largest and wealthiest that ever existed. Dazzled by the oratorical and poetical language of the Greek and Roman writers, they have greedily swallowed their absurdities and contradictions, and exalted their greatness at the expense of the moderns.

Who doubted the exaggerated splendour of the court of the Great Mogul before British conquests disclosed the tinsel reality? Read the histories of these Orientals; the hyperbolic language in which they are conveyed is such as was common to all nations of the earth in former times, and much of the reputed greatness of Rome is undoubtedly due to the servility and vanity of her poets and historians, whose exaggerated and conflicting statements have hitherto imposed upon the world. In the beginning of the eighteenth century a comparison between ancient Rome and London was instituted by a foreigner, and by no means to the disadvantage of the latter, and without depreciating the extent or population below its proper standard. Let us now institute a comparison of London in 1844, with Rome in its highest glory.

The Romans, says M. de Beaumont, were an obscure people, confined to a little corner of Italy; and the continued exercise of arms and husbandry, the only sciences they professed, hindered them from having the thought of transmitting the memory of events to posterity. They were, in fact, profoundly ignorant, and the knowledge possessed must have been exclusively confined to a certain few of the priesthood; the facts handed down by Livy and others all confirm the idea that they were a very illiterate people, resembling the Bohemian peasantry of the present day, their nobles alternately following the plough and taking up the sword. That they had some few existing annals which escaped the devastation by fire of the Gauls we do not dispute; but those annals, when we consider the corrupted and ignorant source from whence they sprang, cannot be received by enlightened men of the present day without great distrust and suspicion. Well-grounded doubts are thrown on Livy and Dionysius Halicarnassus by learned commentators of the present day; and these writers in turn frequently complain of the disagreeing and fabulous statements of writers who preceded them, and on whom they were compelled to rely for all that they possessed in the shape of early history. Fabius, the principal writer of those earlier periods, and whom all the following historians copied, could have had little before him but priestly and family tradition; from both much truth might have been derived, but from the priesthood little could be expected beyond information connected with the order; and the great feature of family pride must have led to many strange and hyperbolic statements. "The foregoing part of my history," says Livy, "is full of obscurity and uncertainty, because the matters there treated of are of too ancient date to have been transmitted with faithfulness and exactness by oral tradition, and because the contemporary writers were few, and the greater part of their writings perished in the fire that consumed the city." Again, he says, "all the memorials kept in the archives that were in private hands, or that made part of the books of the pontiffs, were involved in the ruin of the city." Again, Clodius, in a work entitled "Περὶ τῶν χρόνων," complains that literary parasites had taken advantage of the destruction of the genealogical tables to frame descents in order to gratify the vanity of some private families, who would needs be thought of noble origin.

(To be continued.)

The Smoke Nuisance.—In a course of lectures on architecture recently delivered by Mr. G. Godwin, F.R.S., at Manchester, he remarked, relative to the injurious effect produced on the public buildings by the deposition of soot, that he could not help wondering how it happened that in a town like Manchester, where the inhabitants had shewn taste and spirit in the erection of numerous public buildings, the vast chimneys of steam engines should still be allowed to vomit forth enormous volumes of smoke, to deface all that was ornamental, and injure much that was useful. The men of Manchester (continued Mr. Godwin) were rarely backward in that wise liberality, the true economy, which shrinks from no amount of immediate outlay if followed by a proportionate advantage, and he was certainly much surprised, therefore, to find this abominable nuisance permitted there, when it had been unequivocally proved that manufacturers who consumed their smoke considerably lessened the expense of fuel, and that if this were universally effected many serious evils would be prevented, not the least of which was the destruction of all architectural beauty. This remark will apply to other places than Manchester.

Victoria Park.—The contract for three miles of park paling has been retaken by a Mr. Marshall, its execution having been thrown up by Mr. Hull, of Godalming, who had previously taken it on terms of 1,500*l.* below the highest tender. Workmen are engaged in forming Old Ford-lane into a straight line of road, and a row of houses, called Kings' Arms-row, has been levelled. Within the last three weeks upwards of 700 loads of rubbish have been brought from the works in progress in the formation of the new road at Whitechapel to fill up the excavations, and for other purposes. A circle has been staked out in the Grove-road, which is to form one of the principal entrances into the park, and some progress has already been made in the drainage of many of the fields. The chief part of the tenants inhabiting the houses forming the remaining wing of Bonner's Hall have vacated their occupancy, prior to the demolition of this interesting structure, which will commence at once. This is one of the most picturesque parts of the locality, the venerable trees which still remain shewing it to have been the remnants of a formerly well-cultivated park. The active arrangements for its formation are under the directions of Mr. Pennethorne.

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